

mandated in accordance with the recommendations of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, Public Law 101-510, as amended (the "BRAC law").

**DATES:** The review period for the DEIS will end 45 days after publication of the NOA in the **Federal Register** by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ADDRESSES:** Questions and/or written comments regarding the DEIS, or a request for a copy of the document may be directed to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Dr. Susan Ivester Rees, U.S. Army Engineer District, Modile (CESAM-PD), 109 St. Joseph Street, Mobile, AL 36602.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Susan Ivester Rees at 334-694-4141 or by facsimile at 334-690-2727.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The DEIS analyzes three alternative courses of action with respect to the disposal and subsequent reuse of the 676 acres (440 land acres and 236 submerged land acres) comprising the Military Ocean Terminal, Bayonne (MOTBY): (1) The no action alternative, under which the property would be maintained in a caretaker status after closure; (2) the unencumbered alternative, under which the Army would transfer the property without encumbrances, such as environmental restrictions and easements; and (3) the encumbered disposal alternative, under which the Army would transfer the property with various environmental restrictions and easement, limiting the future use of the property. Additionally, this DEIS analyzes the potential environmental and socioeconomic consequences of three community reuse alternatives: (1) low intensity reuse alternative; (2) Low-medium intensity reuse alternative; and (3) medium intensity reuse alternative.

The DEIS concludes the no action alternative is not reasonable since the closure of MOTBY is mandated by BRAC law, and the Army has no requirement to retain the property. The DEIS also concludes that the unencumbered disposal alternative is not feasible given environmental conditions and legal requirements.

The Army's preferred alternative course of action is the encumbered disposal of excess property. Possible encumbrances include: covenants and restrictions pertaining to asbestos-containing material; lead-based paint; floodplains; future remedial activities after transfer; wetlands and easements; and rights-of-way.

Community reuse of the MOTBY property is analyzed in the DEIS as a secondary action resulting from closure

and disposal by the Army. While the Army does not control the community's reuse of the property, under NEPA, the Army is required to analyze the reasonably foreseeable impacts of its disposal action. The local community has established the Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority (BLRA) to develop and implement a reuse plan for the installation. Approval and implementation of the reuse plan are within the discretion of the BLRA.

A public meeting will be held during the 45-day DEIS comment period to afford the public the opportunity to provide oral and written comments on the DEIS. The location and time of the meeting will be announced in local newspapers at least 15 days prior to the meeting. Verbal comments made at the public meeting and written comments received during the comment period will be used in the preparation of the Final EIS and Record of Decision.

Copies of the DEIS have been forwarded to the EPA, other Federal, state, and local agencies; public officials; and organizations and individuals who previously provided substantive comments in the EIS scoping process. Copies of the DEIS are available for review at the following libraries: The Bayonne Free Public Library, 697 Avenue C, Bayonne, NJ 07002-2806; the Jersey City Public Library, 472 Jersey Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07302; and the Newark Public Library, 5 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102.

Dated: March 25, 1999.

**Raymond J. Fatz,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health), OASA(I&E).*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Navy

#### Termination of Environmental Impact Statement for Management of Aircraft Operations at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island, Washington

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy, announced its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the management of air operations at NAS

Whidbey Island. The Notice of Intent was published in the **Federal Register** on February 7, 1989. The EIS was to cover proposed air operations associated with increased training activity at Ault Field and Outlying Field (OLF) Coupeville. The Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS (DEIS) was published in the **Federal Register** on August 27, 1993. The DEIS was distributed to various federal, state, and local agencies, elected officials, special interest groups, interested individuals, and the media. Public hearings were held on September 29, 1993 and November 10, 1993.

At the time of the preparation of the DEIS, all Navy EA-6B Prowler electronic warfare squadrons and all west coast A-6E Intruder squadrons were stationed at NAS Whidbey Island. Ault Field and Outlying Field (OLF) Coupeville were used for aircraft training exercises on Whidbey Island.

Since the publication of the DEIS, the conditions at NAS Whidbey Island have changed significantly. All A-6E aircraft have been decommissioned and are no longer based at NAS Whidbey Island. Accordingly air operations at NAS Whidbey Island have been reduced 40-50% from 1988 levels.

The significant reduction in air operation activities has eliminated the need for proposed modifications to NAS Whidbey Island air operations. Therefore, the preparation of an EIS for Management of Aircraft Operations at NAS Whidbey Island is no longer required and the process is hereby terminated.

**ADDRESSES:** Questions regarding this notice may be directed to: Ms. Kathryn Souders, Environmental Affairs Director, NAS Whidbey Island at (360) 257-1009.

Dated: 25 March 1999.

**Pamela A. Holden,**

*Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests.

**SUMMARY:** The Acting Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information